

PROFITS FROM WINTER LAYING.

A. Yes, for the whole lot. The system of feeding which we adopted gave us an output of 14,408 eggs for the last year named, 1896. If you go into these figures you will find that that only represents sixty or seventy eggs per fowl per year. But we sold the eggs from these fowls at the highest winter price and that was how we made money. Again, there was a certain number of fowls that practically did nothing but eat the profit the others were making, which goes to show the extraordinary margin of profit there is to the farmers of the country if they will only get the eggs in the season of high prices and sell them to the best advantage.

Q. If they all did that the price would not be high?

A. Well, then, aim to reduce the cost of production.

By Mr. Calvert :

Q. Did you make an estimate of the cost of keeping these hens and the price you sold the eggs at so as to ascertain what profit you made?

A. Yes, I quote from my annual report:

Eggs were sold, in Ottawa, from 1st to 15th of December, at 30 cents per doz.; during the latter half of that month at 35 cents per dozen. In January at 30 cents per dozen in Ottawa. A shipment of eggs to Montreal during that month brought 40 cents per dozen. The express charges for the case of 18 dozen eggs were 36 cents.

During February continued mild weather brought the price down to 25 and 20 cents. March, the prevailing price was 20 cents per dozen, declining to 18 and 15 cents per dozen.

COST OF DAILY RATIONS.

The cost of the daily rations fed to the laying stock, numbering 204, was estimated at 41 cents, as follows:—

	Cents.
18 lbs. of cut green bone, at 1 cent per lb.	18
20 lbs. of wheat, buckwheat, &c., at 1 cent per lb.	20
Grit and vegetables.	3
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	41

To this should be added the time of the man in cutting up the bones by the machine, sometimes half or three-quarters of an hour. It should also be stated that buckwheat was mostly used for cut rations during the winter months. To offset this is to be considered the worth of the manure, which a bulletin from the Raleigh, North Carolina, Experimental Station, values at half the cost of the feed of the hen for the year, but which we allow to go for the trouble of the farmer in looking after and feeding his fowls.

When mash was fed it was composed of ground grains in such quantity as not to exceed the value of 18 cents.

The allowance of 1 cent per lb. for the whole grain is liberal, for buckwheat sold in the fall and early part of the winter at 22 and 25 cents per bushel.